



Youngstown (OH) Branch



AAUW Youngstown September 2024 Update

September is fast approaching and with it a calendar of meeting dates and speakers. The board met in August to set dates and our annual program. We are determined to be more proactive in promoting membership and diversity.

Membership:

We will have a **reception** explaining AAUW and give potential members the opportunity to join us and only pay half of the National dues.

National has initiated a new renewal schedule, depending on when you joined AAUW. Self-renewal ability can be located at [AAUW Membership](#) or log in to [AAUW.ORG](#) to access your personal information.

Fees are as follows:

- Annual National (\$72), Students (\$18.81), and Lifetime (\$1,440). As of January 2024, all National dues are FULLY tax deductible!
- State and branch fees are \$26. College/University Membership dues are \$250 and include two free national memberships for their named representatives and free national student memberships.
- YSU has been a University Member of AAUW, and we hope it will continue. Membership enables students and professors the ability to apply for scholarships and grants and provides access to seminars.

First Meeting of the Year

Our first meeting will be on September 7 at The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Struthers Branch, 95 Poland Ave, Struthers, OH 44471 at 10 AM Our Barbara Brothers will be speaking about "Changes in Public Education". With bills like the "Higher Education Enhancement Act" which directly impact academic freedoms and instruction on "controversial beliefs and policies" (HB151), SB110 which includes the Ed-Choice Vouchers, and HB 83 which eliminates DEI, Ohio's public education is in trouble. Learn what you can do to try to stop these policies.

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

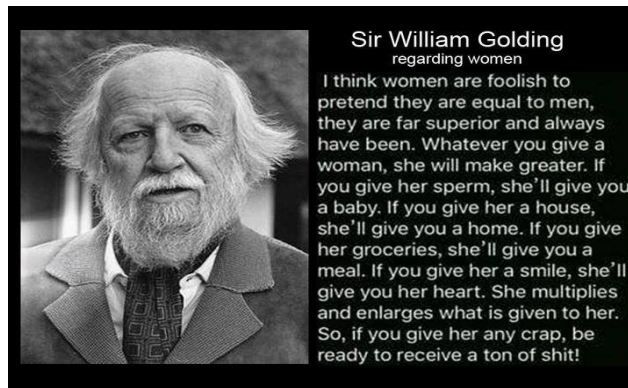
You are invited to the First AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference! Unfortunately, it is at the same time as the Ohio state Fall Summit, September 27-29th. More information will be coming.

Ohio Fall Summit

The Ohio Fall Summit "*Your Influence Matters*" will be both in person and online at All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 N. High Street, Worthington, OH 43085 beginning at 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Check out the new resources on the [Community Hub: Tools and Resources Page](#) which include quick tutorials to help members and leaders navigate the Hub.

Editorial By Jorine Stone, Co-President, AAUW Youngstown



Political chaos just keeps on giving....

Regarding public education in Ohio, **Vouchers Hurt Ohio** was created to expose the injustice done to our public school system and the young Ohioans whose education suffers as a result. They are a growing coalition of over 50 school districts around the state and we plan to pursue legal action with the state of Ohio, to highlight the unconstitutionality of the current school funding law, specifically the ed choice program. **The Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding** and **Vouchers Hurt Ohio** have a booth at the Ohio State Fair to observe and engage in assessing attitudes and perceptions on a variety of public issues including education of the facts of the voucher scheme besides the fact that the system that it takes money from the public school system for private schools, it increase reliance on local property taxes to fund public schools, and the majority of the money is benefiting the wealthy at the expense of low income and rural communities.

Voting Rights are continuously being challenged. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft (R) filed a lawsuit Wednesday challenging President Joe Biden's 2021 executive order promoting voter registration. This is not the first case brought this year against this executive order. Last month, a right-wing legal group, Texas legislators and **Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose** (R) sued the Biden administration, and in January, Pennsylvania GOP legislators filed a lawsuit of their own. The Republican National Committee (RNC) announced it adopted former President Donald Trump's 2024 election platform, which includes a staunchly anti-voting agenda.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court caused this response from one of the dissenters, Sonia Sotomayor. She wrote that when the president "uses his official powers in any way, under the majority's reasoning, he now will be insulated from criminal prosecution. Orders the Navy's Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organizes a military coup to hold onto power. Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon. Immune. Immune, immune...to be clear, this is not just a defeat for democracy and the rule of law, but a terrifying reminder of just how dangerous another four years of a Donald Trump presidency would be. Justice Sonia Sotomayor put it best: "With fear for our democracy, I dissent."

The Republican controlled Commission has approved misleading wording for the amendment on the ballot to eliminate gerrymandering in Ohio. "It's one grotesque abuse of power after another

from politicians desperate to protect the current system that only benefits themselves and their lobbyist friends,” said Maureen O’Connor, former Supreme Court Justice in Ohio.

And so, it continues!! Hope to see you in September.
Jorine Stone